

AIR LAW & POLICY

Reporter

Judgment Alert !

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The National Green Tribunal on 10th November 2016 had passed various directions with respect to the issue of air pollution in the case *Vardhaman Kaushik Vs. Union of India & Ors*, O.A No. 21/2014. With respect to the issue of air pollution due to crop residue burning, the Tribunal had, among other directions, also directed each respondent State (Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) to notify one district which has major land use as agriculture to be taken as a model district for implementation of direction and orders in relation to complete stoppage of burning of agricultural residue.

On the 6th of January 2017, in the case *Vikrant Kumar Tongad Vs. Environment Pollution (Prevention Control) Authority & Ors (O.A. No. 118/2013)*, the State of Punjab submitted that they have taken District Patiala as Model District for the purposes of prevention and control of air pollution resulting from crop residue burning. State of Haryana also submitted that they have taken District Karnal as a Model Village for that purpose.

The States have made these submissions based on the high rural population and high agricultural activities carried out in these areas.

The Tribunal directed the concerned Secretary of the States to:

- File a complete Action Plan in relation to these Districts;
- Collect a baseline data as a first action;
- Put on record the measures that they propose to take in furtherance to the judgement of the Tribunal;
- In case any proposal has been submitted to the Union Ministry, the same is to be dealt with immediately.

The matter is listed for 23rd January 2017 before the Principal Bench.



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